

20010214.ba v03_n101.bam.20010214

>From ???@??? Wed Feb 14 14:04:07 2001 -0600
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 14:01:32 CST
From: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 3101
Message-Id: <20010214210833.4754C4B69@devel43.theporch.com>

BOATANCHORS Digest 3101

Topics covered in this issue include:

- 1) Re: Enjoying BAs
by "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>
- 2) Re: DX-100 Help Needed
by James Hanlon <knjhanlon@qwest.net>
- 3) Hallicrafters S-40 parts source?
by Charles <cmorris@innernet.net>
- 4) RE: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by "Ed Tanton" <n4xy@att.net>
- 5) RE: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
- 6) Website update...
by "Ed Tanton" <n4xy@att.net>
- 7) Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
- 8) Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>
- 9) Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs and grounded outlets
by Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
- 10) Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
by Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
- 11) AN/TRC-83?
by mikhael_brown@agilent.com
- 12) Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs and grounded outlets
by "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>

Message-ID: <00b701c0964d\$11304c40\$7ffd91c6@oemcomputer>
From: "Hue Miller" <kargokult@proaxis.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Enjoying BAs
Date: Tue, 13 Feb 2001 22:11:37 -0800
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

----- Original Message -----

From: JOSE V. GAVILA (EB5AGV/EC5AAU) <eb5agv@ctv.es>

Subject: Enjoying BAs

> Hello my dear BA enthusiast friends,
> Not bad for a 40+ years old set. It is a pleasure
> difficult to describe but you will sure understand me, don't you?

--Yes, that is quite a thrill, and i'm sure it lights up our corner of the universe just a little more, when some 'instrument of magic' that has not functioned in x0 years, suddenly breathes the electric current of life and speaks. Especially so, when what its first words are meaningful, like meaningful talk or sublime music that didn't just surge out of the industrial pipe-line. (And no disparagement of 'Industrial' intended.)

I dragged home an orphan 'Philco Tropic' one day from a swap meet, probably because that was what Mr. Zeichners said he listened to, and Mr. Zeichners was special. When we both worked at the Post Office decades ago, Mr. Zeichners at break time always had his nose in some book with charts on Soviet Industrial Production, instead of chewing junk food and talking garbage. Anyway, the Philco needed a tuneup bad, but when plugged in late that nite, with a couple feet of wire, brought in some way cool program of Maori songs from NZ. Sublime propagation that nite.

>

> BTW, I got the VCR working :-)

Now here's the kind of electronics, tho it serves good purpose, is no work of art, and in fact should be made less permanent. My now obsolete, disposable 486 computer, history at 5 years, why couldn't it be made of cardboard, or water soluble cellulose, so it wouldn't take up space in the land for 10,000 years?
Hue Miller

Message-ID: <3A8A8E0C.B4F4B59B@qwest.net>

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 06:54:21 -0700

From: James Hanlon <knjhanlon@qwest.net>

MIME-Version: 1.0

To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

Subject: Re: DX-100 Help Needed

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Jim,

If you can't find a replacement switch wafer, try gluing the one you have back together with some epoxy. I've done it successfully on a switch wafer in my Valiant.

Jim, W8KGI

From: Charles <cmorris@innernet.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Hallicrafters S-40 parts source?
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 09:42:29 -0500
Message-ID: <7a6l8to5jqni44nkt6t2ses74var846um2@4ax.com>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable

I have an S-40 receiver that belonged to my father and I would like to restore it. It needs a dial glass, bandswitch and tuning knobs, and a speaker and grille. Any idea where I can find these parts?

thanks
Charles (remove the REMOVE to reply directly!)

From: "Ed Tanton" <n4xy@att.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "Boatanchors Reflector-Jack" <boatanchors@theporch.com>,
"EF Johnson Reflector" <johnson@qth.net>
Subject: RE: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:14:19 -0500
Message-ID: <CKEGICNFDIMCEKEDCEHFGEMMGAAA.n4xy@att.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="us-ascii"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Hi Avery:

> What difference does it make whether the hot lead in the line cord is
> connected to the rear or the side lug of the fuse holder??

The problem is that the fused cord-plug is NOT polarized. It does have two fuses in it, but that-in itself-can lead to a bad situation where the 'cold' fuse blows leaving line voltage on the unit, and you think it blew the fuse, etc. etc.

> And why should the bypass caps be wired in after the fuse and
> switch--just to avoid having voltage across them all the time?

NOTHING but NOTHING should ever be on the line side of a fuse. Things short out... disc bypass capacitors included, and if on the line side of the fuse, the only thing between you and your house burning down is just how big a fire the line cord melting starts. I wouldn't personally put the bypass caps after the SW simply because of all the unbypassed wire running around inside the cabinet. You can shield it, however.

If you DO choose to use one, you must remember to:

- 1) Never plug in the unit until the ground wire is solidly attached.
- 2) Never remove the ground wire until the unit is unplugged.
- 3) NEVER use the coax cable (shield) as THE ground.

If you follow the three rules above, you won't have any problems... but forget just one time, and leave it plugged in, and there can be problems when you get between the unit and ground. Also, there can be leakage in bypass caps. It can become sufficient to nail you.

73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@arrl.net>

website: <http://www.n4xy.com>

LM: ARRL QCWA AMSAT & INDEXA;
SEDXC NCDXA GACW QRP-ARCI
OK-QRP QRP-L #758 K2 (FT) #00057

Message-Id: <4.2.2.20010214102036.00a94800@ntpop.usnews.com>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:27:03 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
From: Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
Subject: RE: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
Cc: <boatanchors@theporch.com>, <COLLINS@LISTSERV.TEMPE.GOV>,
<COLLINS@LISTSERVE.COM>, <roy.morgan@nist.gov>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Hi, Ed--

Good explanation for the bypass caps (and anything else that I might be tempted to put on the line side of a fuse). The question I had regarding the fuse holder, though, wasn't whether to use a fused-cord plug. It was

Roy's point about which lug of a fuseholder to use for the hot AC lead. Roy stipulated that the black wire should go to the rearmost connector of the holder, the lug at the back end of the pillar, and not to the side lug of the holder. My question was why that would make a difference.

73, Avery W3AVE

At 10:24 AM 2/14/2001 -0500, you wrote:

>Hi Avery:

>

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> > connected to the rear or the side lug of the fuse holder??

>

>The problem is that the fused cord-plug is NOT polarized. It does have two
>fuses in it, but that-in itself-can lead to a bad situation where the 'cold'
>fuse blows leaving line voltage on the unit, and you think it blew the fuse,
>etc. etc.

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> > switch--just to avoid having voltage across them all the time?

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>73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@arrl.net>

>

>website: <http://www.n4xy.com>

>

>LM: ARRL QCWA AMSAT & INDEXA;

>SEDXC NCDXA GACW QRP-ARCI

>OK-QRP QRP-L #758 K2 (FT) #00057

From: "Ed Tanton" <n4xy@att.net>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "QRP-L Reflector" <qrp-l@Lehigh.EDU>,
"Drakelist Reflector" <drakelist@baltimoremd.com>,
"Boatanchors-Tempe" <BOATANCHORS@LISTSERV.TEMPE.GOV>,
"Boatanchors Reflector-Jack" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Website update...
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:36:14 -0500
Message-ID: <CKEGICNFDIMCEKEDCEHFMEMOGAAA.n4xy@att.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="iso-8859-1"
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

I said I would let folks know when I (finally) got the website revised with some of the new-but-old, film, 2700dpi x 2700 dpi (original scan) photos. I completely revised the Photo Gallery page http://www.qsl.net/n4xy/photo_gallery1.html , and added what I'd call the 1st round of organized photos. This relates to radio in that the NEXT round will be all radio photos. It sure LOOKS to me like I can get ** MUCH ** better scanned in images (from 35mm negatives) than the 1.3 million pixels of the digital camera.

Everywhere possible, I have tried to make the photos load as fast as possible. Is there any interest in an article on how you do that, along with how to organize the images?

My next adventure along these lines will be a round of photos of radios, with some closeups. Especially a nearly identical "Current Rig" photo for comparison between digital & film. I hope you'll forgive the obliquely-OT email, and that you do enjoy the photos.

73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@arrl.net>

website: <http://www.n4xy.com>

LM: ARRL QCWA AMSAT & INDEXA;
SEDXC NCDXA GACW QRP-ARCI
OK-QRP QRP-L #758 K2 (FT) #00057

Message-Id: <4.2.2.20010214104144.00aa7910@ntpop.usnews.com>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:44:16 -0500
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>

From: Avery Comarow <acomarow@usnews.com>
Subject: Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
Cc: <boatanchors@theporch.com>, <COLLINS@LISTSERVE.COM>, <roy.morgan@nist.gov>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Bob--

Now why didn't I think of that perfectly sensible explanation? (Don't answer that!)

Thanks, Bob.

73, Avery W3AVE

At 10:48 AM 2/14/2001 -0500, you wrote:

>Avery:

>I think this is just a personal safety deal!

>If you use the side lug, as you pull the fuse out and your fingers are
>on the

>cap (possibly touching the metal in the cap end of the fuse holder) as

>you pull the fuse out the other end will touch the side lug and bingo,

>you have a connection from the hot side of the fuse holder direct to you

>through the cap end!

>If you use the back lug for the "hot" side of the cord, as you unplug

>the fuse, the connection is then definitely broken and you can't get

>shocked.

>Bob.

>

>Avery Comarow wrote:

> >

> > Hi, Ed--

> >

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> > tempted to put on the line side of a fuse). The question I had regarding

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> > >
> > >
> > >73 Ed Tanton N4XY <n4xy@arrl.net>
> > >
> > >website: <http://www.n4xy.com>
> > >
> > >LM: ARRL QCWA AMSAT & INDEXA;
> > >SEDXC NCDXA GACW QRP-ARCI
> > >OK-QRP QRP-L #758 K2 (FT) #00057
> > >
> > Sponsored by the Collins Collectors Association <http://www.collinsradio.org>
> > Nets: Tues: 3.805 Mc-2000 Central / Thur: 3.875 Mc-2000 Central
> > Fri: 3.895 Mc-2000 Pacific / Sun: 14.263 Mc-2000 UTC

Message-ID: <002c01c096a6\$1985a3a0\$c05e0387@satellite>

From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Cc: "Boatanchors Reflector-Jack" <boatanchors@theporch.com>,
"EF Johnson Reflector" <johnson@qth.net>
Subject: Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 11:49:27 -0500

Hi, Gang!

In re panel-mount fuseholders, it's been SOP pretty much everywhere for years to hook up the "line" side to the *back* connector and the "load" side to the front (side terminal) connector. Fewer lawsuits that way and, more to the point, fewer, "Oh *dawg*-gonnit!" exclamations, or similar phoneme combinations....

A little fooling around will show why it's safer. Some "euro" (5x20mm) fuseholders are a little foolerproof, probably to meet somebody's safety regs, but even they're safest with the hot side at the back.

(And I'm sure everybody knows how to use two sizes of heat shrink, concentric on the holder, to cover up all the live stuff and still allow the back connector to move if it needs to--this is a refeeeeenment for your own gear but quite handy on stuff many folks have access to, see above in re startled exclainations, process servers, etc.).

As for fused line plugs, they are of course as Wrong and Bad as the cloth-covered two-wire power cords on a lot of my gear. *If* you are careful with 'em, they're as safe as houses (what percentage of accidents is it happen in the home as opposed to elsewhere?) but what follows is all "caveat artificor," "use at your own risk," and other such weaseling.

Simplest kinda-safe trick fix is to (this will sound so wrong) put a very large-rating fuse or piece of fuse-shaped conductive material in the "neutral" side of the plug--trace out how it's wired and see which this is, sometimes it makes a difference! Then you put a properly-rated fuse in the line side, remaining aware that the retail price of the standard radio fuse is about fifteen cents so it's okay if they do happen to blow (and you do not ever ever use one bigger'n about 10A on line-powered plug-in 120V gear).

Of course the plug's not polarized; what I've done it to mark the neutral side with a little white enamel on the side, so I do have to look close and make sure I plug *that* side into the *wide* slot of a properly-wired US 120V mains socket. The absent-minded and/or brave may wish instead to try brazing a wider end on the neutral side, using a polarized plug as a guide; I have never done this and wonder about parts fallin' off inside the wall outlet or damaging the plug in attempting the mod, but I've seen it suggested. The thing about white paint is, it *can* fall off, so you dare not ever be really casual about pluggin' in such a thing: look at both sides every time.

There's still no grounding conductor on those plugs, which is not quite accordin' to Hoyle. *IF* one is prepared to be utterly, boringly methodical about having a ground buss in the shop and shack, and hookin' the gear up to

ground *before* anything else and disconnecting ground *after* everything else, that's no problem. Otherwise, well, it's *your* basement and your cardiac system...and your dice to roll. They don't hardly ever come up bad--but don't say you weren't warned they *might!*

Yeah, that's a lot of dreadful dull step-by-step stuff. It's the best substitute I have to offer for the experience of taking a few good (?) line-voltage hits, for getting "zinged" by B-batteries at regular intervals, and all the other near-misses that kept me and the folks ahead of me well aware that we were playin' with stuff that had *real* teeth. (Those of us that survived them, at least).

'Swelp me, it's reached the point where I don't know if I'd sell anything with a line cord on it--if the next owner hasn't wit enough to put a new one on, they probably shouldn't be plugging the thing in anyway!

73,
--Bobbi

Roberta J. (Bobbi) Barmore KB9GKX "RJ" rbarmore@email.msn.com
SOWP 5598-TA * FISTS 3388 * ARRL * RSGB
Builder, restorer and user of vintage keys and tube-type ham gear

Message-ID: <3A8ACD60.ED429DBC@earthlink.net>
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:24:32 -0800
From: Scott Robinson <spr@earthlink.net>
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs and grounded outlets
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Folks,

I'd be much more interested in using 3 prong grounded line cords (earthed mains leads fo any UK readers) if I had any prayer of EVER finding a grounded outlet in a house I lived in! If you house was not built after about 1960 in most parts of the USA you may not have grounded wiring. My house has numerous 3 prong outlets so that you cna plug stuff in but no ground leads...escept the washing machine, which I personally ground to the adjacent water pipe. Well, I did the dishwasher, too-same reason: nearby gounded metal.

If you want to add grounds legally, I think the electrical code discourages such improvements by introducing spurious requirements about running the ground wire along the same path as the original Romex (or worse, knob-and-tube). How much plaster dust and unnecessary interior damage do you want to create?

My only personal use of a double fused plug is on my set of death wires, where I think it's appropriate. BTW, a suitable gauge wire carefully soldered around the prong of a plug seems to polarize it fine, and I've never had one come off.

However, NEVER!! assume that an outlet is wired correctly. Electricians make mistakes, too. If your safety is dependent on that polarity, check it. A neon bulb voltage tester will light dimly via your finger (no perceptible shock, it has a 220K or 100K resistor in it) and tell you which is which.

I might get a line voltage shock once per 10 years, and that includes at work, where I work among other things with switching power supplies, so these cautions seem adequate to me. Of course, my work environment is entirely wired with proper U-ground outlets that are actually grounded.

Regards,

--

Scott Robinson
spr@earthlink.net

Junque is GOOD for you!

Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 10:39:41 -0800
From: Arden Allen <gumbear@pacbell.net>
Subject: Re: {Collins} Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Message-id: <0G8R00EB0FOA70@mta5.snfc21.pbi.net>
MIME-version: 1.0
Content-type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit

Fellow Safety Wonks;

The Internet ate the original on the way to my mailbox so I don't know the full arguments on this thread but talking about where to put fuses, line bypasses, etc. always gets my interest. Having worked with medical instrument safety testing requirements doesn't make me an expert on the subject but I'm familiar with the most severe requirements currently in effect. It kind of breaks down like this:

- 1) Line bypass caps supersede fusing requirements because of the necessity to stop RFI in and outgress. Not only do today's digitally dominated products produce lots of radio noise but a good dose of RF from a nearby

radiating device will mess up their switchy little brains. The RF traffic must be stopped at the gate, where the line cord goes through the chassis. All of the IEC line filter cord connectors installed in equipment these days have at least one pair of capacitors connected from both AC leads to the chassis BEFORE the power gets to the fuse(s). This practice is justified by the necessity to avoid as much series impedance (the fuse and its wiring) as possible to get best bypassing effect from the capacitors and that it is possible to build capacitors these days that have very low failure rates under normal line transient conditions.

2) There is no guarantee that an instrument will not be plugged into an outlet that has been miswired with the LINE and NEUTRAL wires reversed (it's quite common in fact). Therefore the electrical safety requirements are equal for both sides of the line.

3) Any device that has line bypass capacitors certainly has current flowing through them (AC flows "through" capacitors, remember?). An instrument chassis that has equal value capacitors bypassing both power lines will be elevated to one half line voltage unless the chassis is connected to EARTH. The question is can personnel come in contact with a chassis that is floating and HOW MUCH leakage current is available, or in other words, what is the severity of the hazard? Medical instrument requirements mandate that the leakage current available be of very low magnitude. That's where the efficiency of line filters becomes important, i.e., how to dump the RFI over the side without throwing the patient overboard also.

4) Medical instruments that won't deliver harmful leakage current to a patient are assumed to be capable of failing to protect the patient. That is why patient treatment instruments have an internationally standardized GROUNDING TERMINAL. Instruments in use must be SEPARATELY GROUNDED via these terminals. Having instruments knowingly grounded is the only safe way to prevent patient injuries, one infers from the requirements. It's analogous to checking to see if you have your parachute on before exiting the plane at 10,000 feet. In addition, those little sparks you can get from an ungrounded chassis can be an ignition source for an ether-air mixture. It's not nice to blow up patients.

It seems to me that over the many years safety standards bodies having been refining requirements necessitates one should pay attention to what is ACCEPTED as a safe and appropriate way to handle things. That is why all of my radio equipment has a robust ground terminal on the chassis and anything that is plugged in has FIRST been connected to ground. It doesn't matter where the fuse is. A fuse will NOT prevent injury or fire in all cases. It's just there to keep the amount of damage down.

Arden Allen KB6NAX Vallejo, CA gumbear@pacbell.net

Message-ID: <999F6F1E8EB8D311AC190090277A772606CBD023@axcs08.cos.agilent.com>
From: mikhael_brown@agilent.com
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: AN/TRC-83?
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 12:10:39 -0700
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: text/plain;
charset="ISO-8859-1"

Any one have any information on an AN/TRC-83 transmitter? Mike Heltborg has gotten one and asked me to check around for him. He isn't a member of the group so I am posting this for him.

His email address is: mjnpa@effectnet.com

Email either him directly or I can forward it to him.

Thanks in advance and 73's

Mike

--
/// <N6WIG@netscape.net>
| Collector of Military and Vintage
/|\ commuications equipment.
N6WIG San Jose

Message-ID: <001f01c096c0\$56f72aa0\$c05e0387@satellite>
From: "Roberta J. Barmore" <rbarmore@email.msn.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Deadly Fused Line Cord Plugs and grounded outlets
Date: Wed, 14 Feb 2001 14:56:27 -0500

Hi!

Scott's got a point (as do those who made the same comment off the list), a lot of mains outlets in the US are A) wired incorrectly or B) not three-wire.

Case A, well, ahem, back to the "caveat zzzap!" but most folks with ham tickets who run tube-type gear can *probably* plug in a lamp, go to the fuse or breaker box and find what circuit the outlet's on (either draft a lampwatcher or kill circuits one at a time and tromp back and forth--even if things are marked, check it anyway, and check it again once you think it's off!), turn it off, and go back upstairs (etc.), remove the plate and the receptacle, swap the black and white wires, and then put it all back together. And in the case of a miswired outlet, in my opinion you're a fool

not to put it right.

Case B, We Don't Need No Steeeeenking Earth Conductor, it just depends. In The OT hamshack, you don't care, 'cos you've got your own ground buss and you have hooked the exposed metallic portions and ground bussage of your gear thereunto, right? Or you hope you did, and maybe *that's* why you're not gettin' out too well. --This practice (two-wire mains power and a seperate ground buss), which I hope I have made clear is Probably Contrary To Legislated Guidelines in many of the cities and townships of the US, was quite typical of good hamshacks in days now past. (Note that *bad* hamshacks killed users dead in the same halcyon era--QST had a number of black-bordered pages resulting from folks *not* grounding every chassis and/or B+ carelessness).

Elsewhere (in that home the realtor called "delightful vintage," "Turn-of-the-century charmer"), you may or may not find the metal box hid in the wall under the cover plate to be, in fact, grounded. The odds are *very* good you do have *polarized* outlets even if they're two-wire, as they seem to have snuck in (in the US) very soon after the threaded lamp-socket was abandoned as baseboard receptacle (honest, they really did it that way for a short while!). It's also *probable* that not more than 10% of 'em are poled wrong--in the case of tube-and-knob mains wiring, they tended to just run one neutral per floor and it therefore made sense (with an eye to load balancing) get it right. Insulation on that old wire is very, very *fragile* and should not be yanked around casually, but one can often install a new, decent outlet and--if they happened to use amored cable and installed it correctly--even have an actual safety ground of sorts!

...The only house I ever owned had *very* old tube-and-knob (and big, big 30A service, with four whole fuses!) and based on that particular experience, I'd be tempted to rip such stuff out and start over, plaster dust and runnin' the joint on a mess of temporaries notwithstanding, but that's just me--I'm old and easily frustrated and tend to fret. Your mileage (as they say) may vary. "Mileage" varies a *lot* if you have to hire it done--it's not cheap work. ...There's nothing all that *wrong* with a good job of tube-and-knob and it's often better done than later Romex/BX in the same residence. (Telephone and cable TV installers will say there's a *lot* wrong with tube-and-knob. Those guys and their metal fish tapes! [YIKES!] Remember this when drilling holes in the wall).

If you're renting, umm, that's different. I wheedled a seperate feed for my hamshack, at the price of a breaker and 10' of Romex, but it was lucky timing and fortunate shack location!

Really old mains wire is all black--the neutral side will have been chalked (!) or daubed with white paint. If you're in there anyway, a bit of unshrunk white heat-shrink or white "spaghetti" on the neutral side will help out the next person (or on your next visit to the Inner Workings), as the old paint, etc. tends to flake off easily. If the insulation is really crumbly, you may end up sleeving the wires all the way back to the clamps at the entry *points,* which are one-per-*wire* in tube-and-knob and should be

(were originally supposed to have been) insulated/padded with stuff that seems to hold up better than what's on the wire. --This is a *lousy* non-fix, which one uses only at their own risk: the insulation is *just* as cumbering on the other side of the clamp, and both wires are often run pretty free back to the closest knob. Don't take chances!

Folks who do live in a three-contact wallsocket place may find minutes of enjoyment in walking around with one of those inexpensive (even cheaper if you make your own or use an old neon tester) three-light "socket checkers." Electrical inspectors *rarely* check 'em 100% and (as has been pointed out to me off the list), 10% wrong is pretty typical. No reason for 'em to *stay* wrong.

73,
--Bobbi

End of BOATANCHORS Digest 3101
